

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0604

September 8, 2003

The Honorable C.W. "Bill" Young, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: USDA/ARS Central Great Plains Research Station

Dear Chairman Young and Chairman Stevens,

By this letter, I hereby request that the FY2004 Agriculture Appropriations Conferees recede to the Senate language regarding the USDA/ARS Central Great Plains Research Station (CGPRS) located at Akron, Colorado and continue to fund CGPRS at the FY2003 level.

The CGPRS plays an essential and unique role in assisting farmers and ranchers in eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, western Kansas, Nebraska and northern Oklahoma. This research station is the only federal research station directed at solving dryland production problems in these five states. Producers in this 55 million acre region look to CGPRS for technical assistance in implementing innovative crop rotation systems and reduced tillage practices that improve crop yields, while minimizing wind and water erosion. They also count on CGPRS to assist with new crop development, more effective pest and weed control, and new uses for Great Plains' agricultural commodities.

The long-term experiments provide producers with the information that farmers have no other way to receive. As many of my constituents have told me, including the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers, it is absolutely necessary the CGPRS receive proper support so it can continue to provide its valuable services.

Again, I request that the Conferees continue the FY2003 funding in FY 2004 for the USDA/ARS Central Great Plains Research Station. Adequately supporting the station and similar facilities is one of the best ways the government can assist our farmers, helping them to become more efficient and effective producers for America and the world.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Musgrave